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# The Dillon Herald.

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ESTABLISHED 1894

THE DILLON HERALD, DILL SOUTH CAROLINA, THURSDAY MORNING OCTOBER 21, 1920.

VOL. 27. NO. 7.

## HON. JAS. NORTON DIED THURSDAY

News was received in Dillon Thursday of the death of Hon. James Norton, of Mullins. The end came about 10 o'clock Thursday morning. Mr. Norton had been in declining health for some years, but he continued active until about a week ago when a swelling of the lower limbs compelled him to spend most of his time in bed. His condition was not regarded as serious until shortly before the end, when it was noticed that he was a very ill man. Up until the last his mind was active and he faced the unknown with the same unflinching courage he had displayed in fighting life's battles throughout his long and active career.

For many years Mr. Norton was active in the public affairs of the state. He served Marion county in the legislature and later served two terms as comptroller general. From the comptroller general's office he went to Washington as representative from this congressional district, where he remained three terms. He was a hard worker, thorough and painstaking in everything he did, and in every public position he made the people an able and efficient representative. He was a hard student, a close observer and a deep thinker and no man in the state was better informed on the issues of the day. Even in his declining years he never ceased to take an active interest in state, national and international affairs and his views on matters of public policy were just as strong as in the days when he unflinchingly advocated from stump and platform those things he believed to be right.

Mr. Norton was a staunch friend of the masses and was always ready and willing to align himself with those who needed a wise counselor to help them in fighting life's battles. He was the poor man's friend.

His wife, who was a sister of the late John C. and P. B. Sellers, preceded him to the grave several years ago. He is survived by an only son, Mr. Fitz Norton, of Mullins.

The funeral was held at his home in Mullins Friday and the interment was made at Miller's church that afternoon, with Masonic honors.

## NEXT WEEK COTTON PICKING WEEK

Movement Under Way to Close Schools and Stores and Devote Week to Picking Cotton.

The movement to declare next week a county-wide cotton picking week by closing schools, stores and all manufacturing plants seems to have gained great momentum and meets the approval of a great majority of the people who realize the danger of letting cotton remain in the fields.

The matter was brought to the attention of the Federation meeting at Hamer last Saturday and strong resolutions were adopted favoring the plan and urging the schools and other places to close for a week beginning next Monday morning.

There is no market for low grade cotton and another wet spell will cost the county, so it is estimated by knowing men, at least \$500,000. Not more than 40 per cent of the cotton in the county has been picked, and for the past two weeks picking has been practically at a standstill. One farmer says the high price being paid for picking is responsible for this unusual condition. Lots of people want just enough money to make ends meet, and if a picker can go in the field and in three days gather enough cotton to support him for the week he will not work the whole week. This condition seems to be pretty general. The masses of the workers have not realized that now is the time to earn all they can and lay some money aside for the "rainy day," which will come before the winter is over. If they could be made to realize that unless conditions change there will be much want and suffering before the spring months come again they would go to the cotton fields and work from daylight until dark.

The object in closing the schools is to save what cotton is in the fields and at the same time let the money drift into the hands of thrifty people who will hold it until they are obliged to spend it for the necessities of life.

The plan seems to meet with general approval. The movement was started in Darlington county last week and it is said that it met with much success. If Dillon can save what cotton is in the fields it will be able to weather the present financial crisis.

## K. of P. Meeting Postponed.

The regular meeting tonight of Dillon Lodge No. 54, K. of P., has been postponed on account of the county fair. The next meeting will be on the night of the first Thursday in November.

All former members who desire to reunite with this lodge can do so by the payment of either six months or a year's dues, dating from October 1st of this year, when the lodge was reorganized. No back dues will be asked for.

C. S. HERRING, C. C.  
D. S. ALLEN,  
K. P. R. and S. and M. F.

## COURT OF COMMON PLEAS

Court of Common Pleas adjourned Friday. When The Herald went to press last week the court was engaged in hearing the case of Horace Peirce against S. V. Lane. The plaintiff alleged that defendant arrested him for fast driving and put him in jail without giving him an opportunity to give bond. The jury gave Mr. Peirce \$5 punitive damages.

The court directed a verdict for defendant in the case of J. W. Bryant against the Dillon Mills. The plaintiff claimed that the mills owed him \$1,000 on a certificate of indebtedness issued some years ago, by the Hamer Mills for his note. The note was not used and it was plaintiff's privilege to surrender the certificate and get his note. The certificate was not surrendered and the mill continued to hold the note.

The court also directed a verdict for defendant in the case of T. W. Bethea et al. vs. The Dillon Mills and W. M. Hamer. Plaintiff alleged that defendants were due him accrued dividends on certificates of indebtedness issued some years ago by the Maple Mills, the mill stock of plaintiff and his father, the late Dr. J. F. Bethea, having been purchased by Mr. Hamer. The defendant produced evidence in writing which showed that all of plaintiff's right, title and interest to accrued dividends went with the mill stock when the transfer was made. Upon this showing the court directed a verdict in favor of the defendants.

## FLORENCE WOMAN NOT GUILTY

Jury Acquits Mrs. Edna Burgess Charged With Killing Husband

Florence, Oct. 14.—The jury in the case of Mrs. Edna Burgess, tried for the murder of her husband, Guy Burgess, here July 21 of this year, after deliberating one hour and ten minutes, brought in a verdict of not guilty. On hearing the verdict Mrs. Burgess fainted, falling into the arms of her sister, who sat beside her during the trial.

She was assisted from the courtroom by the sheriff and on reaching the street she again fainted. The trial lasted for the greater part of two days, during which the defendant stood remarkably well the ordeal through which she passed.

The defense put up and proved to the satisfaction of the jury temporary insanity. The defendant was put on the stand in her own behalf and put through a severe examination by Solicitor M. L. Gasque. She promptly answered every question put to her in a straightforward way and those she failed to answer directly, she said, "I don't know."

April, of this year, Mr. Burgess showed an absolute and cold intolerance toward his wife, she claimed. He treated her harshly on several occasions, spent her savings of \$300 cash and required her to sell her diamond earrings to meet his bills, she said.

## Gets Hold of Letter

On the evening of the fatal tragedy Mrs. Burgess received through the mails a letter written to her husband by a woman in Knoxville, Tenn., signed "Bernice." Her husband came in at 5 o'clock and in their room she asked that he allow her to sit on his lap. He repulsed her and said, "I don't want you to ever touch me again," she testified. She then knelt before him and asked that they have an understanding and start life over forgetting the past, she said. He rose to go and got his hat, she threw her arms around his neck and said, "Guy, you can't leave me, just tell me that you love me a little and if you won't do this, then be fair with me and tell me who Bernice is," she testified. At this, she testified, he pushed her away, saying "I don't know who Bernice is and I am damned tired of you and am going to leave you now." She ran to close the door and remembered nothing else for several days, she declared. She shot her husband three times, one ball entering penetrating the heart causing almost instant death. Three shots were fired in the room and two others in the yard where her husband fell. She was in the county jail for several days before being released on a bond of \$1,000, after which she went with her sister to Atlanta, coming here only a few days ago to stand trial.

While in jail she was constantly under the care of a physician and his testimony that the long and continued strain with the mental shock received on reading the Bernice letter, caused temporary insanity and he gave as his professional opinion that she was not responsible for her acts at the time of the killing.

## SERVICES AT THE METHODIST CHURCH

Main Street Methodist Church.—Dr. Watson B. Duncan, pastor. Sunday school at 10 a. m., Mr. W. H. Muller, superintendent. Preaching at 11 a. m. and 7:30 p. m., by the pastor.

Morning subject: "The Devil and His Work in Dillon;" evening subject: "How Christ Destroys the Works of the Devil."

Prayer service on Wednesday at 7:30 p. m., followed by choir practice.

Public cordially invited to all services.

## TERRIBLE TRAGEDY NEAR ROWLAND

Gas Boiler Bursts, Kills Five Men and Fatally Wounds Sixth.

A small way station on the Alms Southbound railroad, three miles northeast of Rowland, was the scene of a terrible tragedy Friday morning about 9 o'clock when a 50-horse boiler at a ginney owned by Bridgers & Pate burst without warning.

The dead are: Robert Bridgers, Henry Bracey, Jessie Bracey, Arner Oxendine, Spencer Oxendine, and Mose Taylor, who died after being carried to a Fayetteville hospital. Robert Bridgers was a brother of Mr. J. L. Bridgers, Atlantic Coast Line agent at Dillon.

The explosion was heard in Dillon, Little Rock and Hamer, and at Rowland the concussion was so great that buildings rattled and window panes were broken.

The first person to arrive on the scene was a Mr. Bullock, who operates a gin about a mile from where the explosion took place. He heard the explosion and jumping in his automobile, drove to the scene as rapidly as possible. A gruesome sight met his gaze. The boiler room was a mass of debris and half of the gin-house had been torn away. Mose Taylor, colored, who died later at the hospital, was crawling around on the ground moaning piteously and calling for a doctor. Both eyes had been blown out, his shoulder was broken and there were deep gashes on his head and face. Others began to arrive and the work of rescue began, but the five men who were in the boiler room when the explosion took place were beyond human aid. Four of the five were dead and the fifth was breathing his last.

A horse and mule standing hitched to a loaded wagon near the boiler room were killed outright, and the cotton in the wagon scattered on the ground. The fragments of a cat that must have been in or near the boiler room were found in the top of a tree a hundred yards from the scene of the explosion. So great was the force of the explosion that clothing was stripped from the bodies of the dead men and hurled up into trees. The body of Arner Oxendine, the fireman, was hanging over the gin-house rafters.

The ginney was owned by Messrs. Bracey & Bridgers. It had been in operation almost continuously since the opening of the season. A few days ago boiler trouble developed and the plant was shut down for repairs. All the day before they had been working on the boiler, completing the work early that morning. The boiler was fired up and they were getting ready to gin. The Messrs. Bracey were in the boiler room sitting on a bench and a few moments before the explosion Mr. Bridgers drove up his car and went into the boiler room. Just as he entered the boiler room the explosion took place. A few minutes before the explosion took place another Mr. Bracey had been on top of the boiler looking at the pop-off valve. He came down and walked about 100 yards to his house to get a knife to cut some bagging. Just as he entered the house the explosion took place. His wife, who was at the door, was hurled backward with great violence, but she sustained no injuries.

The 50-horse boiler was strongly imbedded in a brick foundation and brick were hurled a distance of 500 yards. Brick dust covered the ground for a radius of 100 yards. Buildings in the vicinity rocked as if shaken by an earthquake and glass crumbled into dust. It is not known how much steam pressure was on the boiler, but those who heard the explosion and saw the wreckage say the boiler must have carried from 250 to 300 pounds of steam. It was a 60-horse boiler, but would have stood under ordinary conditions a pressure of 100 pounds. The theory is that the pop-off valve failed to work and the steam gauge was out of order. This is the only explanation that can be offered.

Although the Messrs. Bracey, Mr. Bridgers and Arner Oxendine, the fireman, were within a few feet of the boiler their bodies were not badly burned or mutilated. One side of Mr. Bridgers' face was crushed in but there were no bruises on his face. It is thought that all five men were killed by concussion, although they were buried under heaps of wreckage.

A colored boy who stood near the horse and mule that were killed could not be found, but it is probable that he recovered and ran away from fright.

The boiler was laid open as flat as a pancake. It did not rip at the rivets, but split between the seams. The flues were blown in every direction, some of them being found 300 yards from the scene of the explosion.

A strange fatality seems to have followed the Bracey family this year. Jessie Bracey, one of the victims of the explosion, was a brother of the young Bracey who backed his car under a tree a few months ago and was choked to death by an overhanging limb.

Mr. Bridgers leaves a wife and six small children. He was an industrious man and was making splendid headway in the world. If he had been three minutes later in reaching the gin-house Friday morning he would not have been numbered among the victims of the tragedy. His aged father lives at Elrod. It was the most terrible tragedy

## DILLON'S BIG FAIR

Large and Varied Aggregation of County's Products.

Dillon county is not going to have a big fair—she's having it. The big event is on and the thousands of visitors this week will be surprised at the remarkable showing Dillon makes at the first effort. It is above the average county fair—and that is saying quite a great deal because there are some mighty good county fairs in South Carolina.

The live stock exhibit features. In the hog department there are no better specimens at the State Fair or any other fair. Dillon county has some wonderful hogs. They are there to speak for themselves. They tell an eloquent story—and that is that Dillon has not been lagging behind in the movement to improve the breed of porkers. The pure bred hog is the bull weevil's worst enemy and when the weevil reaches Dillon county it will find the enemy pretty well entrenched. In addition to the hogs there are many fine cattle on exhibit.

The ladies have done their part well. The fancy work, art and fruit departments are pretty. In each of these departments there is a pretty collection of very interesting articles, well displayed and attractively arranged. The interior of this building presents a charming and delightful scene and its collection of exhibits is a distinct credit to the good taste of the ladies who arranged it. One of the features of the fair will be the midway which has a large and interesting collection of shows, including a wild west and a \$1,000 monkey speedway, Eggbert, the world champion motor cycle rider, and many other attractions. There are 215 people with the carnival.

At the racing stables there are 94 horses which will make up the several classes for Wednesday, Thursday and Friday. Many of these horses are from a distance, and from Dillon they will go to the State Fair at Columbia. The races bid fair to be one of the best features of the week.

There are several other pretty exhibits, including the agricultural and county health nurse exhibits, the school exhibits, etc., which will have to be mentioned in the next issue of the paper.

## DILLON A NOISY TOWN?

Recent Sojourner Says Mill Whistles Waste Too Much Steam and Energy.

"You have a fine town and lots of very hospitable people," remarked a gentleman who spent several weeks here recently, "but I must say Dillon is the noisiest town I ever lived in and my business has taken me to nearly every point in the United States. I have no criticism to make of the several excellent gentlemen who own your various enterprises, but I must say the employees who have control of the steam whistles seem to be licensed to do as they please." And then this gentleman went on to say that about 4:30 every work-day morning he was aroused by the incessant blowing of a whistle and the moment this whistle stopped another whistle just as loud made the weak ring for eight or ten minutes. About the time he would doze off into another slumber another whistle in some other part of town would emit terrible shrieks and from then on till 7 o'clock there was a constant blowing and bellowing of whistles, the like of which he never heard before in his life. The indictment is true. The men who manipulate the whistles in the various enterprises seem to have very little regard for the rights or comforts of others. Time and again we have held the watch on some of these whistles and they continued blowing for as long as five minutes without a pause. Not long ago a physician told us he was watching the labored breathing of a little child who was very ill. The child was nervous and along in the early morning hours the stillness was broken by the hoarse bellowing of a whistle. The child was aroused from its fitful slumber (the first it had had for many hours) and the incessant blowing of the whistle almost threw it into hysterics. It was with difficulty that he managed to hold the child on the bed and the longer the whistle continued to blow the more serious the situation became. There are many sick people no doubt greatly annoyed by this incessant blowing of whistles and certainly it is an injustice to those people whose work requires them to remain up at night and sleep late in the morning. The steam plants have a right to blow their whistles but there should be some rule or law regulating the length of time they should be blown. Thirty seconds is long enough to notify employees of the arrival of the work hour, and if 30 seconds of the blowing we have been accustomed to hearing will not awaken an employee the enterprise for which he works should furnish him an alarm clock. It is not right to wake up the whole community in waking up a few employees.

that has ever been visited upon the community and the people were shocked and stunned by its suddenness and the fearful loss of life. By noon Friday hundreds of automobiles from a radius of many miles had gathered at the scene.

## ROBERT E. LEE'S COOK IN HAMLET

Says White and Blacks on Same Plane Only While Roasting 'Possum.

Hamlet Messenger. With but a few of Hamlet's colored population to form a hurried reception committee, Rev. William Mack Lee, General Robert E. Lee's personal body guard during the Civil War, spent a few hours in Hamlet Monday while en route from the Confederate reunion at Houston, Tex., to his home in Norfolk where he is pastor of a large colored congregation.

W. M. Gordon, of Monroe, who rode with William Mack Lee from Union county capitol to Hamlet, quoted the aged negro as follows:

"For four years I was Marse Robert's cook and personal body-guard. I cooked what little food I could secure for him; looked after his personal wants, and was ever ready to defend him from harm. After the war he gave me eight hundred dollars with which to educate myself, and I attended Washington and Lee University for eight years. Then I went into the government postal service, working in this department of the government until retired with a pension. My old Misses, Mrs. Robert E. Lee, left me five thousand dollars in her will."

The old cook showed Mr. Gordon several letters which he had received from the Governors of North and South Carolina, Georgia and Kentucky, and from other notable southern figures, the Confederate flag which he carried in the parade at Houston.

During Lee's short stay in Monroe, the Journal of that city quotes him as saying:

"The only time, when the negro and the white men are on an equal plane is when the 'possum is roasted and the 'taters are ready. After the feast is over they fall back into their natural places."

On the breast of the distinguished old darkey, who is beloved by the entire Southland, reposed twelve or fifteen medals which had been bestowed upon him for his loyalty and care of the great Confederate leader, and in his pockets he jingled five hundred dollars, contents of a purse presented to him at Houston. Although eighty-five years of age, "Marse Robert's" cook is well preserved for his age, stands five feet eleven inches in his barefoot, is as straight as an arrow, and he is the possessor of a kindly but sad face. He sports a Van Dyke beard, which like his hair, is grey.

## WHITE CAPS RIDE INTO LAKE CITY

As a Result of Visit There Are Plenty of Cotton Pickers, Cooks and Washers There Today.

Florence Daily Times. White caps were abroad in the Lake City community last night and as a result the cotton fields of that vicinity are well manned with cotton pickers today, and the farmers who have been facing ruin from low grade cotton are today hopeful of gathering their entire crop before bad weather sets in.

In addition to the freshly discovered hords of cotton pickers it is reported that cooks and washerwomen are plentiful at Lake City. "They were knocking on the doors early this morning, looking for jobs," said a Lake City citizen to a Times reporter this morning.

The white caps appeared in Lake City about midnight last night two hundred strong. Both riders and their horses were shrouded in white and the sight was enough to cast the fear of the Lord into the hearts of all beholders.

Older citizens of the town say it brought the scenes of 1876 to their minds afresh.

First the night riders visited several farmers who had been paying as high as \$1.50 a hundred to cotton pickers and advised them that it was a good time to quit this practice. Then the cavalcade made a call on the negro section and suggested that more work and less loafing would be a good thing for the colored residents of Lake City.

Mayor W. H. Whitehead was also visited. The white caps told the mayor that he must enforce the vagrancy laws more vigorously and more rigidly. Mayor Whitehead told the spokesman for the party that he had attempted to enforce these laws to the best of his ability but had been criticised severely in some quarters for his activity. He declared that to make the laws more effective he must have the undivided support of the community. This support he thought he would receive from the looks of things last night.

The white caps went about their business calmly, and from the reports there was no evidence of any intention to offer violence to any of the persons they visited during the night. But it is said that they meant business.

## CARD FROM MR. JACKSON

To the readers of The Dillon Herald: I wish to extend many thanks to all who helped me to the hospital, and as for Mr. Max Fass, I must thank him many more times than I can express for his kindness and the interest he took in my welfare, and not in this case alone, but in many more in the past. LEVI JACKSON, U. C. V.

## COUNTY NEWS.

OAK GROVE Superintendent of Education R. S. Rogers was here Monday afternoon to confer with the building committee of the new school house. He expressed himself as being well pleased with the type of building that is being erected and the manner in which the work is progressing. The building, when completed, will rank favorably with any of the modern rural school buildings of the county and will no doubt meet the demands of this community along educational lines for fifty years hence.

Notwithstanding the high cost of labor and all building material the finances have been so managed that the building will be completed and equipped without any great burden in taxation to the people of this school district.

An up-to-date school building and an attractive church ought to be the pride of the people of any community. The people who take an interest in such institutions will develop into larger usefulness.

Rev. C. S. Felder preached an able sermon last Sunday morning on what constitutes a good church.

Albert Layton, of Marion, was here one day last week. The Home Demonstration Club met at Mrs. J. S. Fair last Wednesday afternoon.

The good weather of the past three weeks has been of a great advantage to the farmers in gathering the cotton.

## SELLERS

On Thursday morning, October 14, at his home in Mullins, the spirit of the Hon. James Norton took its flight to the regions of the blest. He was buried on Friday at the Miller cemetery, by the side of his devoted wife, whose maiden name was Miss Rachael Cochran Sellers. We would not attempt to write an obituary of a man who has done so much for his town, county, state and nation, as has the Hon. James Norton, but will leave that task to more competent writers.

Thursday night about 9 o'clock Tilghman's fire alarm sounded, and it was found that the residence of Mr. D. B. Spell was in flames. Mr. Harrelson's house was burned also, one store and postoffice. This loss is only partially covered by insurance.

Mr. Burgess, of Floyds, had protracted services at the Methodist church here last week.

Edwards, Mrs. H. W. Rich, Mrs. J. C. Sellers, Mr. and Mrs. D. N. Watson, Miss Mattie Price and Miss Jessie Smith attended the Federation at Hamer on last Saturday.

Born, to Mr. and Mrs. W. F. Shackelford, a daughter, Frances Louise.

Rev. W. C. Foster will preach on the fifth Sunday afternoon at Anloch. This was done in order that the church might attend a laymen's meeting at the Dillon Baptist church on the first Sunday afternoon in November.

Mr. and Mrs. J. G. Baker had a few friends with them on Tuesday evening, it being the 29th anniversary of their marriage.

## FORK

Mr. and Mrs. C. E. Rogers and daughter and Miss Lucile Bethea, of Greensboro, N. C., spent the week-end here.

Mrs. McLaurin, of Hope Mills, N. C., is visiting relatives here.

Mrs. Katie Roberts, of Smithboro, is spending some time with her daughter, Mrs. Gorce Carmichael.

Mrs. Annie Carmichael is visiting Dr. and Mrs. T. W. Carmichael, of Rowland.

Mr. R. C. Simpson, of Tatum, was in town last week.

## WILL SELL CANNING CLUB PRODUCTS

Columbia, Oct. 19.—The South Carolina Development Board, through its commission markets, will strive to find a ready cash outlet for every pound of food produced in the state.

One class of food, about which there has been some difficulty in the past, was that produced by the numerous canning clubs. Though of high quality and relatively cheap in price, lack of efficient marketing agencies has caused a large annual loss.

Conferences are now in progress between development board officials and Miss Christine South, state director of the home economics forces at Winthrop College, looking to a satisfactory market for every pound of canned goods put up by the girls in the home demonstration clubs. In one item alone, thousands of cans of tomatoes are turned out each year by these girls, and even so, other thousands might be if there was a market.

The development board has now taken up the matter of the sale of canning club goods with one of the largest chain grocery store corporations in the country. Officials of this company have expressed themselves as anxious to handle the products of the home economics members. They will do so, they say, on a business-like basis, and by placing the goods in their hundreds of stores, and a quick market for every can produced. This matter will be brought up at the next meeting of the board's markets commission for definite action. Miss South will attend the meeting and act as the representative of the clubs in closing the negotiations.